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MEMO TO: North Dakota Educators

FROM: Laurie Matzke, Division Manager
Student Support & Innovation

DATE: February 11, 2016

RE: Important Updates

Please note the following three important updates:

- 1) Challenges to Census Data
- 2) ESSA WebEx Training
- 3) Title I Eligibility for 2016-2017

1) Census Data for 2016-2017 Allocations

Eligibility for a Title I grant requires a district to have a minimum Formula Count of TEN. The Formula Count is a weighted unit consisting of 15.5% of the census poor count, 15.5% of the foster child count, 46% of the eligible free meal count, and 23% of the eligible reduced meal count. The census poor count is the count of children ages 5-17 who were reported below poverty on the updated federal census.

Each December or January, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) sends the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) a chart showing the updated census count for each district in the state. In the past, we were told that there was no disputing the census numbers. However, the USDE now allows districts to review the information and provides an opportunity for districts who believe there may be an error in the data to challenge the data.

The chart with the updated census poor count that is used to determine the Title I allocations for the 2016-2017 school year and the memorandum from the USDE are attached to this correspondence and can also be accessed at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/ConApp/ on our website.

The USDE memo contains the email and phone number to use if you would like to challenge the census data. Please note that the deadline to challenge an error is March 8, 2016. Please notify your contact person within the Division of Student Support & Innovation if you intend to challenge the census data.

2) Every Student Succeeds Act WebEx

The NDDPI is sponsoring a second WebEx training on the newly reauthorized federal law "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA). We have received several updates in recent weeks and would like to share this information with school personnel.

- The ESSA WebEx is Friday, February 19, 2016 from 10:30 – 11:30 AM CST

- The WebEx training is via Internet. Each school is asked to log on and register for the training at <https://nddpievents.webex.com/nddpievents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e9b1e44d5e9d9155ed5c834d7b710ecc2>
- Schools must have a computer with an Internet connection at the time of the training. Participants will listen via their PC speakers and will only have the opportunity to chat questions at the end of the training.
- Registered participants will receive a reminder along with the log in information on Wednesday, February 17, 2016.
- All applicable handouts will be posted prior to the WebEx training at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/Presentations_Recordings/.

If you have questions regarding the details of the training, please contact Patty Carmichael at (701) 328-3264 or pcarmichael@nd.gov.

3) Title I Eligibility Notification

Each year in February, the NDDPI determines eligibility status for Title I funding for the subsequent school year. After eligibility has been determined, we can then use each district's aggregate units for funding purposes.

The Office of Federal Title Programs will be sending correspondence to all Title I authorized representatives informing them of the status of their aggregate units within the next week. Each district will receive a chart comparing last year's aggregate units to the current total. The information provided in the chart will identify which districts are eligible for Title I funds in the 2016-2017 school year as well as gauge any potential changes in your district Title I allocation for the 2016-2017 school year until the estimated allocations have been released.

Please watch for this correspondence to be disseminated via email.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this memorandum, please contact me at lmatzke@nd.gov or (701) 328-2284.